

Claims

What is claimed is:

1        1. A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:  
2            inputting into a first computer a first patient identifier and an operating parameter for the  
3        medical device;  
4            inputting into a second computer, from a first source, a second patient identifier;  
5            inputting into the second computer, from a second source, a medication identifier, the  
6        medication identifier including a third patient identifier;  
7            sending the medication identifier to the first computer, if the second patient identifier is  
8        equivalent to the third patient identifier; and  
9            sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device, if the third  
10      patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier, where the operating parameter does not  
11      pass through the second computer.

1        2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
2            inputting into the first computer a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the  
3        operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication  
4        identifiers are equivalent.

1        3. The method of claim 1, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        4. The method of claim 1, where the step of inputting into the first computer includes  
2        converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

1        5. The method of claim 1, where the first computer is at a central location.

1        6. The method of claim 1, where the first computer is a pharmacy computer.

1        7. The method of claim 1, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of  
2        identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3        number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a  
4        hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

1        8.      The method of claim 1, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating  
2 parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time,  
3 a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit,  
4 and a monitoring limit.

1        9.      The method of claim 1, where the step of inputting into a second computer from a  
2 first source includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable  
3 medium format.

1        10.     The method of claim 1, where the first source is a wristband.

1        11.     The method of claim 1, where the first source is one of a group of first sources, where  
2 the group of first sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug label,  
3 laser readable data, a camera-type bar code reader, an RFID reader, a magnetic stripe reader, and  
4 radio-frequency readable data.

1        12.     The method of claim 1, where the second computer is at a remote location.

1        13.     The method of claim 1, where the second computer is a personal digital assistant.

1        14.     The method of claim 1, where the second source is a medication label.

1        15.     The method of claim 1, where the second source is one of a group of second sources,  
2 where the group of second sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a  
3 medication label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data.

1        16.     The method of claim 1, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of  
2 medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a  
3 manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary  
4 database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

1        17.     The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
2                sending the operating parameter to the second computer if the first and second patient  
3 identifiers are equivalent.

1        18.     The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
2              using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

1        19.     The method of claim 1, where the step of sending the medication identifier to the first  
2              computer includes the use of a wireless communication path.

1        20.     The method of claim 1, where the step of sending the operating parameter from the  
2              first computer to the medical device includes the use of a wireless communication path.

1        21.     A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
2              a first computer, the first computer designed to accept a first patient identifier and an  
3              operating parameter for the medical device;  
4              a second computer, the second computer designed to accept a second patient identifier from a  
5              first source, the second computer designed to accept a medication identifier from a second source,  
6              the medication identifier including a third patient identifier,  
7              where the second computer is designed to send the medication identifier to the first computer  
8              if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are equivalent;  
9              where the first computer is designed to send the operating parameter to the medical device if  
10              the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier, where the operating parameter  
11              does not pass through the second computer.

1        22.     The system of claim 21, where the first computer is designed to accept a second  
2              medication identifier, where the first computer is designed to send the operating parameter to the  
3              medical device only if the first medication identifier is equivalent to the second medication  
4              identifier.

1        23.     The system of claim 21, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        24.     The system of claim 21, where the first computer is at a central location.

1        25.     The system of claim 21, where the first computer is a pharmacy computer.

1        26.     The system of claim 21, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of

2 identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3 number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, and a name of a patient's  
4 relative.

1        27. The system of claim 21, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating  
2 parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of a medication flow per unit of  
3 time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a  
4 dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

1        28. The system of claim 21, where the first source is a wristband.

1        29. The system of claim 21, where the first source is one of the group of first sources,  
2 where the group of first sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug  
3 label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data.

1        30. The system of claim 21, where the second computer is at a remote location.

1        31. The system of claim 21, where the second computer is a personal digital assistant.

1        32. The system of claim 21, where the second source is a medication label.

1        33. The system of claim 21, where the second source is one of a group of second sources,  
2 where the group of second sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a  
3 drug label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data a bar code.

1        34. The system of claim 21, where the medication identifier is one of a group of  
2 medication identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage,  
3 manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary  
4 database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

1        35. The system of claim 21, where the first computer is designed to send the operating  
2 parameter to the medical device if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are  
3 equivalent to the first patient identifier.

1       36. A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable  
2 medium, the program comprising logic for:

3           accepting a first input from a first computer, the first input including a first patient identifier  
4 and an operating parameter for the medical device;

5           accepting a second input from a second computer, the second input including a first portion  
6 and a second portion, the first portion coming from a first source, the first portion including a second  
7 patient identifier, the second portion coming from a second source, the second portion including a  
8 medication identifier, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

9           sending the medication identifier to the first computer, if the second patient identifier is  
10 equivalent to the third patient identifier; and

11           sending the operating parameter to the medical device, if the third patient identifier is  
12 equivalent to the first patient identifier, where the operating parameter does not pass through the  
13 second computer.

1       37. The program of claim 36, further comprising logic for:

2           inputting into the first computer a second medication identifier, where the logic for sending  
3 the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication  
4 identifiers are equivalent.

1       38. The program of claim 36, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1       39. The program of claim 36, further comprising logic for:

2           sending the operating parameter to the second computer if the first and second patient  
3 identifiers are equivalent.

1       40. The program of claim 36, further comprising logic for:

2           using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

1        41. A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
2            means for accepting a first input at a central location, the first input including a first patient  
3            identifier and an operating parameter for the medical device;  
4            means for accepting a second input at a remote location, the second input including a first  
5            portion and a second portion, the first portion coming from a first source, the first portion including a  
6            second patient identifier, the second portion coming from a second source, the second portion  
7            including a medication identifier, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;  
8            means for sending the medication identifier to the central location, if the second patient  
9            identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier; and  
10          means for sending the operating parameter to the medical device, if the third patient identifier  
11          is equivalent to the first patient identifier, where the operating parameter does not pass through a  
12          computer prior to being accepted by the medical device.

1        42. The system of claim 41, further comprising:  
2            means for accepting a second medication identifier at the central location, where the step of  
3            sending the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second  
4            medication identifiers are equivalent.

1        43. The system of claim 41, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        44. The system of claim 41, where the means for sending the operating parameter to the  
2            medical device, is a means for sending the operating parameter to the medical device if the second  
3            patient identifier and the third patient identifier are equivalent to the first patient identifier.

1        45. A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:  
2           accepting a first input at a first computer, the first input including a first patient identifier and  
3           an operating parameter for the medical device;  
4           accepting a second input from a second computer, the second input associated with  
5           information derived from a device attached to a patient, the second input including a second patient  
6           identifier;  
7           accepting a third input from the second computer, the third input associated with information  
8           affixed to a medication container, the third input including a medication identifier, the medication  
9           identifier including a third patient identifier; and  
10          sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device if the first,  
11          second, and third patient identifiers are equivalent, where the operating parameter is sent without  
12          passing through the second computer.

1        46. The method of claim 45, where the first input includes a second medication identifier,  
2           where the step of sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device is  
3           performed only if the first and second medication identifiers are equivalent.

1        47. The method of claim 45, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        48. The method of claim 45, where the step of accepting a first input at the first computer  
2           includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

1        49. The method of claim 45, where the first computer is at a central location.

1        50. The method of claim 45, where the first computer is a pharmacy computer.

1        51. The method of claim 45, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of  
2           identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3           number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a  
4           hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

1        52.     The method of claim 45, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating  
2 parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time,  
3 a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit,  
4 and a monitoring limit.

1        53.     The method of claim 45, where the step of accepting a second input from a second  
2 computer includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium  
3 format.

1        54.     The method of claim 45, where the device attached to a patient is a wristband.

1        55.     The method of claim 45, where the device includes the information in one of a group  
2 of formats, where the group of formats consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag,  
3 a drug label, laser readable data, a camera-type bar code reader, an RFID reader, a magnetic stripe  
4 reader, and radio-frequency readable data.

1        56.     The method of claim 45, where the second computer is at a remote location.

1        57.     The method of claim 45, where the second computer is a personal digital assistant.

1        58.     The method of claim 45, where the medication identifier is included in a medication  
2 label.

1        59.     The method of claim 45, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of  
2 medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a  
3 manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary  
4 database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

1        60.     The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of:  
2 using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

1        61.     The method of claim 45, where the step of sending the operating parameter from the  
2 first computer to the medical device includes the use of a wireless communication path.

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1       62. A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable  
2 medium, the program comprising logic for:

3           accepting a first input at a first computer, the first input including a first patient identifier and  
4 an operating parameter for the medical device;

5           accepting a second input from a second computer, the second input associated with  
6 information derived from a device attached to a patient, the second input including a second patient  
7 identifier;

8           accepting a third input from the second computer, the third input associated with a  
9 information affixed to a medication container, the third input including a medication identifier, the  
10 medication identifier including a third patient identifier; and

11           sending the operating parameter from the first computer to the medical device if the first,  
12 second, and third patient identifiers are equivalent, without passing through the second computer.

1       63. The program of claim 62, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1       64. The program of claim 62, where the device attached to a patient is a wristband.

1       65. The program of claim 62, where the medication identifier is included in a medication  
2 label.

1       66. The program of claim 62, further comprising logic for:  
2           using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

1        67. A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:  
2            inputting, at a central location, a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the  
3        medical device;  
4            inputting from a first source, at a remote location, a second patient identifier;  
5            inputting from a second source, at the remote location, a medication identifier, the  
6        medication identifier including a third patient identifier;  
7            sending the medication identifier to the central location, if the third patient identifier is  
8        equivalent to the first patient identifier;  
9            finding a latest operating parameter at the central location, if the third patient identifier is  
10      equivalent to the first patient identifier; and  
11            sending a confirmation to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is equivalent  
12      to the latest operating parameter; and  
13            sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device, if the first operating parameter  
14      is equivalent to the latest operating parameter.

1        68. The method of claim 67, further comprising the step of:  
2            inputting, at the central location, a second medication identifier, where the step of sending  
3        the latest operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second  
4        medication identifiers are equivalent.

1        69. The method of claim 67, wherein the latest operating parameter is sent directly to the  
2        medical device.

1        70. The method of claim 67, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        71. The method of claim 67, where the step of inputting from a first source includes  
2        converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium format.

1        72. The method of claim 67, where the central location is a pharmacy.

1        73. The method of claim 67, where the inputting at a central location is inputting into a  
2        computer at the central location.

1        74. The method of claim 67, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of  
2 identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3 number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a  
4 hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

1        75. The method of claim 67, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating  
2 parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time,  
3 a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit,  
4 and a monitoring limit.

1        76. The method of claim 67, where the first source is a wristband.

1        77. The method of claim 67, where the first source is one of the group of first sources,  
2 where the group of first sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug  
3 label, laser readable data, a camera-type bar code reader, an RFID reader, a magnetic stripe reader,  
4 and radio-frequency readable data.

1        78. The method of claim 67, where the step of inputting at a remote location is a step of  
2 inputting to a computer at a remote location.

1        79. The method of claim 67, where the step of inputting at a remote location is  
2 a step of inputting into a digital assistant.

1        80. The method of claim 67, where the second source is a medication label.

1        81. The method of claim 67, where the second source is one of a group of second sources,  
2 where the group of second sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a  
3 medication label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data.

1        82. The method of claim 67, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of  
2 medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a  
3 manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary  
4 database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

1        83.     The method of claim 67, further comprising the step of:  
2              sending the latest operating parameter to the digital assistant if the first and second patient  
3              identifiers are equivalent.

1        84.     The method of claim 67, further comprising the step of:  
2              using the latest operating parameter to program the medical device.

1        85.     The method of claim 67, where the step of sending the medication identifier to the  
2              central location includes the use of a wireless communication path.

1        86.     The method of claim 67, where the step of sending the latest operating parameter to  
2              the medical device includes the use of a wireless communication path.

1        87.     A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
2              a first processor at a central location, the first processor designed to accept a first patient  
3              identifier and a first operating parameter for the medical device; and  
4              a second processor at a remote location, the second processor designed to accept a second  
5              patient identifier from a first source; the second processor designed to accept a medication identifier  
6              from a second source, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier,  
7              where the second processor is designed to send the medication identifier to the central  
8              location, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier,  
9              where the first processor is designed to find the latest operating parameter at the central  
10             location, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first patient identifier,  
11             where the first processor is designed to send a confirmation to the second processor, if the  
12             first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter, and  
13             where the first processor is designed to send the latest operating parameter to the medical  
14             device, if the first operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter.

1        88.     The system of claim 87, where the first computer is designed to accept a second  
2              medication identifier, where the first computer is designed to send the latest operating parameter to  
3              the medical device only if the first medication identifier is equivalent to the second medication  
4              identifier.

1        89.      The system of claim 87, where the first processor is designed to send the latest  
2 operating parameter to the medical device without passing through the second processor, if the first  
3 operating parameter is equivalent to the latest operating parameter.

1        90.      The system of claim 87, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        91.      The system of claim 87, where the first source is a wristband.

1        92.      The system of claim 87, where the second processor is a personal digital assistant.

1        93.      The system of claim 87, where the second source is a medication label.

1        94.      The system of claim 87, where the first processor is designed to send the operating  
2 parameter to the medical device if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are  
3 equivalent to the first patient identifier.

1        95.      A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable  
2 medium, the program comprising logic for:

3              accepting a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the medical device from  
4 an input device at a central location;

5              accepting a second patient identifier from a first source, the first source at a remote location;  
6              accepting a medication identifier from a second source, the second source at the remote  
7 location, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

8              sending the medication identifier to the central location, if the third patient identifier is  
9 equivalent to the first patient identifier;

10             finding a latest operating parameter, if the third patient identifier is equivalent to the first  
11 patient identifier;

12             sending a confirmation to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is equivalent  
13 to the latest operating parameter; and

14             sending the latest operating parameter to the medical device, if the first operating parameter  
15 is equivalent to the latest operating parameter.

1        96.      The program of claim 95, further comprising logic for:  
2           accepting a second medication identifier at the central location, where the logic for sending  
3           the latest operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second  
4           medication identifiers are equivalent.

1        97.      The program of claim 95, where the logic for sending the latest operating parameter  
2           to the medical device is logic for sending the latest operating parameter directly to the medical  
3           device.

1        98.      The program of claim 95, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        99.      The program of claim 95, further comprising logic for:  
2           sending the latest operating parameter to the second computer if the first and second patient  
3           identifiers are equivalent.

1        100.     The program of claim 95, further comprising logic for:  
2           using the latest operating parameter to program the medical device.

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1        101. A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:  
2            storing medical treatment data in a memory associated with a first processor, the medical  
3 treatment data including a first patient identification data, a first medication identification data, and a  
4 first plurality of medical device operating parameters, where the first plurality of medical device  
5 operating parameters is associated with the medical treatment data and the patient identification data;  
6            inputting second medication identification data into a second processor, where the second  
7 medication identification data is associated with medication to be administered to a patient, where  
8 the medical device is operably connected to the second processor;  
9            inputting second patient identification data into the second processor;  
10            sending the second medication identification data and the second patient identification data  
11 from the second processor to the first processor;  
12            finding a latest plurality of medical device operating parameters in the memory associated  
13 with the first processor; and  
14            sending the latest plurality of medical device operating parameters to the second processor if  
15 a comparison of the first and second patient identifiers satisfies a first predetermined condition, and  
16 if a comparison of the first and second medication identification data satisfies a second  
17 predetermined condition;  
18            sending a confirmation to the second processor if the first plurality of operating parameters is  
19 equivalent to the latest plurality of operating parameters;  
20            sending the latest plurality of operating parameters to the medical device if the first plurality  
21 of operating parameters is equivalent to the latest plurality of operating parameters.

1        102. The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of:  
2            inputting into the first processor a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the  
3 latest plurality of operating parameters to the medical device is performed only if the first and  
4 second medication identifiers are equivalent.

1        103. The method of claim 101, where the first source is a wristband.

1        104. The method of claim 101, where the second computer is at a remote location.

1        105. The method of claim 101, where the second processor is the processor of a digital  
2 assistant.

1       106. The method of claim 101, where the second source is a medication label.

1       107. The method of claim 101, further comprising the step of:

2           using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

1       108. A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable  
2 medium, the program comprising logic for:

3           storing medical treatment data in a memory associated with a first processor, the medical  
4 treatment data including a first patient identification data, a first medication identification data, and a  
5 first plurality of medical device operating parameters, where the first plurality of medical device  
6 operating parameters is associated with the medical treatment data and the patient identification data;

7           accepting a second medication identification data into a second processor, where the second  
8 medication identification data is associated with medication to be administered to a patient, where  
9 the medical device is operably connected to the second processor;

10          accepting a second patient identification data into the second processor;

11          sending the second medication identification data and the second patient identification data  
12 from the second processor to the first processor;

13          finding a latest plurality of medical device operating parameters in the memory associated  
14 with the first processor;

15          sending the latest plurality of medical device operating parameters to the second processor if  
16 a comparison of the first and second patient identifiers satisfies a first predetermined condition, and  
17 if a comparison of the first and second medication identification data satisfies a second  
18 predetermined condition;

19          sending a confirmation to the second processor if the first plurality of operating parameters is  
20 equivalent to the latest plurality of operating parameters; and

21          sending the latest plurality of operating parameters to the medical device if the first plurality  
22 of operating parameters is equivalent to the latest plurality of operating parameters.

1       109. The program of claim 108, further comprising logic for:

2          accepting into the first processor a second medication identifier, where the step of sending  
3 the latest plurality of operating parameters to the medical device is performed only if the first and  
4 second medication identifiers are equivalent.

1       110. The program of claim 108, where the first source is a wristband.

1        111. The method of claim 108, where the second computer is at a remote location.

1        112. The program of claim 108, where the second processor is the processor of a digital  
2        assistant.

1        113. The program of claim 108, where the second source is a medication label.

1        114. The program of claim 108, further comprising logic for:  
2        programming the medical device using the latest plurality of operating parameters.

1        115. A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:  
2        inputting, at a central location, a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the  
3        medical device;

4        inputting a second patient identifier into a processor from a first source, the processor being  
5        at a remote location;

6        inputting a medication identifier and a second operating parameter for the medical device  
7        into the processor, the medication identifier and a second operating parameter coming from a second  
8        source, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

9        sending the medication identifier and the second operating parameter to the central location,  
10      if the second patient identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier;

11      sending the second operating parameter to the medical device without passing through the  
12      processor, if the first and second operating parameters are equivalent and if the first and second  
13      patient identifiers are equivalent.

1        116. The method of claim 115, further comprising the step of:  
2        inputting a second medication identifier, at the central location, where the step of sending the  
3        operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication  
4        identifiers are equivalent.

1        117. The method of claim 115, where the processor is integral with the medical device.

1        118. The method of claim 115, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        119. The method of claim 115, where the step of inputting at the central location is a step  
2 of inputting into a pharmacy computer.

1        120. The method of claim 115, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of  
2 identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3 number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a  
4 hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

1        121. The method of claim 115, where the operating parameter is one of a group of  
2 operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per  
3 unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug  
4 name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

1        122. The method of claim 115, where the step of inputting into a processor from a first  
2 source includes converting a signal generated by an input device to a computer readable medium  
3 format.

1        123. The method of claim 115, where the first source is a wristband.

1        124. The method of claim 115, where the first source is one of the group of first sources,  
2 where the group of first sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a tag, a drug  
3 label, laser readable data, a camera-type bar code reader, an RFID reader, a magnetic stripe reader,  
4 and radio-frequency readable data.

1        125. The method of claim 115, where the processor is the processor of a digital assistant.

1        126. The method of claim 115, where the second source is a medication label.

1        127. The method of claim 115, where the second source is one of a group of second  
2 sources, where the group of second sources consists of: a bar code, a bar code reader, a wristband, a  
3 tag, a medication label, laser readable data, and radio-frequency readable data.

1       128. The method of claim 115, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of  
2 medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a  
3 manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary  
4 database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

1       129. The method of claim 115, further comprising the step of:  
2            sending the second operating parameter to the processor if the first and second patient  
3 identifiers are equivalent.

1       130. The method of claim 115, further comprising the step of:  
2            using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

1       131. The method of claim 115, where the step of sending the medication identifier to the  
2 central location includes the use of a wireless communication path.

1       132. The method of claim 115, where the step of sending the operating parameter from the  
2 to the medical device includes the use of a wireless communication path.

1       133. A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
2            a computer at a central location, the computer designed to accept a first patient identifier and  
3 a first operating parameter for the medical device;  
4            a processor at a remote location, the processor designed to accept a second patient identifier  
5 from a first source; the processor designed to accept a medication identifier and a second operating  
6 parameter for the medical device from a second source, the medication identifier including a third  
7 patient identifier;  
8            where the processor sends the medication identifier and the second operating parameter to  
9 the computer, if the second patient identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier, and  
10          where the computer sends the second operating parameter to the medical device without  
11 passing through the processor, if the first and second operating parameters are equivalent and if the  
12 first and second patient identifiers are equivalent.

1       134. The method of claim 133, where the processor is integral with the medical device.

1        135. The system of claim 133, where the computer is designed to accept a second  
2 medication identifier, where the computer is designed to send the second operating parameter to the  
3 medical device only if the first medication identifier is equivalent to the second medication  
4 identifier.

1        136. The system of claim 133, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        137. The system of claim 133, where the first source is a wristband.

1        138. The system of claim 133, where the processor is a personal digital assistant.

1        139. The system of claim 133, where the second source is a medication label.

1        140. The system of claim 133, where the computer is designed to send the operating  
2 parameter to the processor if the second patient identifier and the third patient identifier are  
3 equivalent to the first patient identifier.

1        141. A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable  
2 medium, the program comprising logic for:

3            accepting, at a central location, a first patient identifier and a first operating parameter for the  
4 medical device;

5            accepting a second patient identifier into a processor from a first source at a remote location;  
6            accepting a medication identifier and a second operating parameter for the medical device at  
7 the remote location, the medication identifier and a second operating parameter coming from a  
8 second source, the medication identifier including a third patient identifier;

9            sending the medication identifier and the second operating parameter to the central location,  
10 if the second patient identifier is equivalent to the third patient identifier;

11            sending the second operating parameter to the medical device without passing through the  
12 processor, if the first and second operating parameters are equivalent and if the first and second  
13 patient identifiers are equivalent.

1        142. The program of claim 141, further comprising logic for:  
2           accepting a second medication identifier at the central location, where the logic for sending  
3           the latest operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second  
4           medication identifiers are equivalent.

1        143. The program of claim 141, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        144. The program of claim 141, further comprising logic for:  
2           sending the second operating parameter to the processor if the first and second patient  
3           identifiers are equivalent.

1        145. The program of claim 141, further comprising logic for:  
2           using the second operating parameter to program the medical device.

1        146. A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:  
2           reading a first patient identifier at a remote location, the first patient identifier being attached  
3           to a patient's body;  
4           reading a medication identifier at the remote location, the medication identifier including a  
5           second patient identifier and a first medical device identifier;  
6           reading a second medical device identifier at the remote location, the second medical device  
7           identifier being affixed to the medical device; and  
8           receiving an operating parameter for the medical device from a central location, if the first  
9           patient identifier is equivalent to the second patient identifier, and if the medical device identifier  
10          and the second medical device identifier are equivalent.

1        147. The method of claim 146, further comprising the step of:  
2           inputting at the central location a second medication identifier, where the step of sending the  
3           operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second medication  
4           identifiers are equivalent.

1        148. The method of claim 146, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        149. The method of claim 146, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of  
2 identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3 number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a  
4 hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

1        150. The method of claim 146, where the operating parameter is one of a group of  
2 operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per  
3 unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug  
4 name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

1        151. The method of claim 146, where the steps of reading include the step of reading with  
2 a digital assistant.

1        152. The method of claim 146, where the medication identifier includes one of a group of  
2 medical identifiers, where the group of medical identifiers consists of: a drug name, a dosage, a  
3 manufacturer, a batch, an expiration date, a National Drug Code (NDC) number, a proprietary  
4 database drug identifier, a company product code number, and a drug prescriber.

1        153. The method of claim 146, further comprising the step of:  
2 using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

1        154. The method of claim 146, where the step of receiving an operating parameter for the  
2 medical device from a central location includes the use of a wireless communication path.

1        155. A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
2            a digital assistant designed to read a first patient identifier, the first patient identifier being  
3 attached to a patient's body,  
4            the digital assistant being designed to read a medication identifier at the remote location, the  
5 medication identifier including a second patient identifier and a first medical device identifier,  
6            the digital assistant designed to read a second medical device identifier at the remote  
7 location, the second medical device identifier being affixed to the medical device, and  
8            the digital assistant designed to trigger the transmission of an operating parameter for the  
9 medical device from a central location to a medical device, if the first patient identifier is equivalent  
10 to the second patient identifier, and if the medical device identifier and the second medical device  
11 identifier are equivalent.

1        156. The system of claim 155, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        157. The system of claim 155, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of  
2 identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3 number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, and a name of a patient's relative.

1        158. The system of claim 155, where the operating parameter is one of a group of  
2 operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of a medication flow per unit  
3 of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a  
4 dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

1        159. The system of claim 155, where the medication identifier is a medication label.

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1        160. A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable  
2 medium, the program comprising logic for:

3              reading a first patient identifier at a remote location, the first patient identifier being attached  
4 to a patient's body;

5              reading a medication identifier at the remote location, the medication identifier including a  
6 second patient identifier and a first medical device identifier;

7              reading a second medical device identifier at the remote location, the second medical device  
8 identifier being affixed to the medical device; and

9              trigger the transmission of an operating parameter for the medical device from a central  
10 location to a medical device, if the first patient identifier is equivalent to the second patient  
11 identifier, and if the medical device identifier and the second medical device identifier are  
12 equivalent.

1        161. The program of claim 160 further comprising logic for:

2              accepting a second medication identifier at the central location, where the logic for  
3 transmitting the operating parameter to the medical device is performed only if the first and second  
4 medication identifiers are equivalent.

1        162. The program of claim 160, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        163. The program of claim 160, further comprising logic for:

2              triggering the transmission of the operating parameter to the digital assistant if the first and  
3 second patient identifiers are equivalent.

1        164. The program of claim 160, further comprising logic for:

2              using the operating parameter to program the medical device.

- 1        165. A method for operating a medical device, the method comprising the steps of:
  - 2            storing a first operating parameter at a central location, the first operating parameter
  - 3            associated with a first patient identifier;
  - 4            accepting a second operating parameter into a medical device, the medical device being at a
  - 5            remote location;
  - 6            accepting the first patient identifier into the medical device;
  - 7            sending the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location;
  - 8            and
  - 9            sending an alarm to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is not equivalent to
  - 10          the second operating parameter.

166. The method of claim 165, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

167. The method of claim 165, where the first operating parameter is stored in a computer at a central location.

168. The method of claim 165, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

169. The method of claim 165, where the operating parameter is one of a group of operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

170. The method of claim 165, where the step of accepting the first patient identifier into the medical device is a step of accepting the first patient identifier from a wristband into the medical device.

171. The method of claim 165, where the step of sending an alarm is a step of sending an alarm to a digital assistant.

1        172. The method of claim 165, where the second operating parameter is derived from a  
2 medication label.

1        173. The method of claim 165, where the step of sending an alarm to the remote location  
2 includes the use of a wireless communication path.

1        174. The method of claim 165, where the step of sending the second operating parameter  
2 and the first patient identifier to the central location includes the use of a wireless communication  
3 path.

1        175. A system for operating a medical device, the system comprising:  
2            a computer at a central location, the computer designed to store a first operating parameter,  
3 the first operating parameter associated with a first patient identifier;  
4            a medical device having a processor and an input device, the input device designed to read a  
5 second operating parameter from a medication label, the input device designed to read the first  
6 patient identifier from a wristband using the input device, the medical device at a remote location,  
7 the processor designed to send the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the  
8 central location,  
9            where the computer is designed to send an alarm to the remote location, if the first operating  
10 parameter is not equivalent to the second operating parameter.

1        176. The system of claim 175, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        177. The system of claim 175, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of  
2 identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3 number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a  
4 hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

1        178. The system of claim 175, where the first operating parameter is one of a group of  
2 operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per  
3 unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug  
4 name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

1        179. The system of claim 175, where the system sends the alarm to a digital assistant.

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1        180. The system of claim 175, where the system sends the alarm using a wireless  
2 communication path.

1        181. The system of claim 175, where the medical device sends the second operating  
2 parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location using a wireless communication path.

1        182. A program for operating a medical device, the program stored on a computer readable  
2 medium, the program comprising logic for:

3            storing a first operating parameter at a central location, the first operating parameter  
4 associated with a first patient identifier;

5            accepting a second operating parameter into a medical device, the medical device at a remote  
6 location;

7            accepting the first patient identifier into the medical device;

8            sending the second operating parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location;

9            sending an alarm to the remote location, if the first operating parameter is not equivalent to

10 the second operating parameter.

1        183. The program of claim 182, where the medical device is an infusion pump.

1        184. The program of claim 182, where the first operating parameter is stored in a computer  
2 at a central location.

1        185. The program of claim 182, where the first patient identifier is one of a group of  
2 identifiers, where the group of identifiers consists of: a patient name, a patient social security  
3 number, a patient blood type, a patient address, a patient's allergy, a hospital patient ID number, a  
4 hospital bed location, and a name of a patient's relative.

1        186. The program of claim 182, where the operating parameter is one of a group of  
2 operating parameters, where the group of operating parameters consists of: a medication flow per  
3 unit of time, a quantity of medication, a dosing unit, a dosing duration, a dosing volume, a drug  
4 name, a dose unit, and a monitoring limit.

1        187. The program of claim 182, where the logic for accepting the first patient identifier  
2 into the medical device is logic for accepting the first patient identifier from a wristband into the  
3 medical device.

1        188. The program of claim 182, where the logic for sending an alarm is logic for sending  
2 an alarm to a digital assistant.

1        189. The program of claim 182, where the second operating parameter is derived from a  
2 medication label.

1        190. The program of claim 182, where the logic for sending an alarm to the remote  
2 location includes the use of logic for using a wireless communication path.

1        191. The program of claim 182, where the logic for sending the second operating  
2 parameter and the first patient identifier to the central location includes logic for using of a wireless  
3 communication path.

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